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mies more difficult, and in settling the vexed question as to the influence of a desire for re-marriage upon the increase of divorces. Connecticut for two years reports the number of divorced persons married each year. In 1889 there were 286 such,—135 men and 151 women,—which is a little above one-third the number divorced in the year. In 1890 there were 477 divorces granted, or 954 individuals divorced; and there were 350 divorced persons—this year 207 women and 143 men—who married again during the year. An extended induction along this line should be possible. Guesses based on mere observation are untrustworthy guides in legislation or social reform.

A critical study of the Report of Mr. Wright, especially for its light upon the extent to which legislation operates to increase or decrease Divorce, the work of a young man of much promise, and written as a thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, was published by Columbia College as the first of its series of issues on Social Problems. But though an able work, and founded on much study of Mr. Wright's Report and other documents, it proved less valuable than was expected. A lack of experience in affairs and practical statistics, as in the case of many young writers, gave occasion for serious errors, some of which I felt compelled, by the use that was being made of them, to point out in a letter to the New York *Evening Post* of July 2, 1891. It is probable that the author will make important corrections if this interesting monograph is republished. His main contention, that legislation has less restrictive power than many seem to think, is quite in accord with the facts.

CAUSES OF POVERTY.

The December number of the British *Economic Journal* contains a monograph on the "Causes of Poverty," by Miss Helen Dendy. This author bases her article upon the records of 152 families, which were not self-supporting, as shown by their application for charitable assistance. The period of her investigation covers both summer and winter months, and as the cases were chosen indiscriminately from a wide district containing over 126,000 people, and having nothing in common save their poverty, they can stand as representing the class of unemployed.

Miss Dendy's results are arranged in the following crude table, which she describes as "necessarily more or less imperfect and rough." But it may, perhaps, illustrate the nature of the unemployed — labor problem : —

I.	II.	III.
Reckless improvidence, . 5	Ordinary illness, 28	Decay of trade, 4
Crime, 4	Want of stock (periodical) 3	Extraordinary slackness, . 3
Drink, 19	Old age unprovided for, 10	Emergency, 9
Idleness, 6	Ordinary slackness, . . 12	Extraordinary illness, . 20
Desertion, 5	53	Incompetency, 21
Bad temper, 3		57
42		

The cases represented by the first group cannot be prevented by any external means, and must necessarily exist in the present stage of civilization. Drink is the most potent cause of distress in this group. Idleness and drink often go hand in hand, but both are frequently found as distinct causes of poverty. Bad tempered people are generally out of employment because of their quarrelsome natures. The number of cases given as due to desertion (5) gives no adequate idea of this cause of distress, for such cases come directly under the poor laws. In none of the cases in the first group can poverty and distress be laid to lack of work.

In the second group "ordinary illness" includes only what every individual might reasonably expect, and for which provision might be made. "Want of stock" represents the cause of distress of a class of people who habitually consume both capital and profit, trusting to chance for help when it is needed. "Ordinary slackness" represents the normal amount "of out of work" in certain trades, but the laborers of this class are compensated by higher wages during the busy season. This should cause no distress (except, perhaps, when the slack season is longer than usual) were it not for the habit of spending money as soon as earned.

The amount of distress caused by "decay of trade" is small, for a competent man can adapt his skill to some similar form of industry. "Emergency" includes cases such as loss by fire or sudden death, which cannot be averted. Illness is "extraordinary" when no degree of thrift or foresight could maintain the family in independence. Consumption is the leading cause of distress in this class of cases. Finally,

we find people who are compelled to ask for aid, not because of any particular deficiency, but because of lack of ability. When once taught a trade, however, these people can generally find work; and here, no doubt, there is chance for charitable aid.

In this classification careful inquiry was made in each case. The necessary information was obtained from relatives, landlords, and employees.

G. N. CALKINS.

STATISTICAL ARTICLES IN GERMAN PERIODICALS AND
JOURNALS.

Jahrbücher für Nationalökonomie und Statistik. February, 1892.

Die Entwicklung der Britischen Landwirthschaft unter dem Druck ausländischer Konkurrenz. By Prof. Dr. Paasche.

This traces the development of British agriculture since the abolition of the corn laws, and every page bristles with statistical evidence. Long rows of figures give the imports of each staple with the amounts shipped from each food-producing country. Other tables show the diversification of British agriculture itself. All this leads to the conclusion that the principal cost of cheap food for the inhabitants of Great Britain has been the burden of decreased rents falling upon the land-owners.

Die Verwaltung der Stadt Berlin in den Jahren 1882-1888. By E. Loening.

This presents a discussion of the recently published statistics of the Berlin city government. The city has continued in the line of development begun in 1860. The population has increased 3.46 per cent yearly,—an addition traceable both to immigration and to an excess of births over deaths. At the same time the basis for taxation has grown at an even more rapid rate; that is, the income return has increased 6.11 per cent annually. Not only have the tax receipts risen from 24,198,519 marks in 1882-83 to 33,461,753 marks in 1888-89, but also the surplus from the administration of the municipal monopolies from 31,382,626 marks to 44,767,393 marks in the same years, respectively.

One-fourth of the city's income was expended upon its schools, 15 per cent upon its streets and bridges, and a smaller proportion for